Problems of Powerloom Sector

863. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Task Force appointed by his Ministry to probe into the problems of powerloom sector has suggested the grant of a fund of Rs. 1170 crores for modernising looms and for providing working capital; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government on the suggestion of the Task Force?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Government of India had constituted a Task Force to assess the existing flow of credit to the decentralised powerloom sector and to make recommendations regarding measures to be taken to augment the flow of credit. The Task Force has suggested credit outlay of Rs. 500 crores for working capital, Rs. 150 crores for modernisation of weaving operations and Rs. 50 crores of modernisation of pre weaving operation; in the first year.

(b) The report is under examination.

Supply of hank yarn to Handloom Sector

864. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the private sector handlooms have decided to observe a three-day work stoppage from February 18 to protest against the failure of the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) to ensure supplies of hank yarn at reasonable prises; and

(b) if so, what are the detailg thereof and the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

THE (MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA)/ (a) and (b) Reports of private-sector weavers in Tamil Nadu resorting to demonstrations and agitations protesting against the sharp hike in yarn prices have been received by Government. Out of orders amounting to Rs. 41.52 lakhs placed on National Handloom Development Corporation by three private sector handloom associations in Tamil Nadu for supply of hank yarn, supplies to the extent of Rs. 19.31 lakhs have been made so far by National Handloom Development Corporation and supplies to the extent of Rs. 7.16 lakhs are in pipeline. Supplies for the remaining amount of Rs. 15.05 lakhs could not materialise as the Tamil Nadu parties were not prepared to accept supplies from the mills concerned.

Contraband items seized from Rajas-than-Pakistan border

865. SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of seizure of contraband smuggled items, particularly narcotics on the Rajasthan-Pakistan border during the year 1B37, sector-wise; and

(b) what are the$_e$ detailg of the re cipients of rewards for the seizure of these contrabands as per the rewards scheme of the Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA); (a) and (b) A statement giving details is annexed hereto.